ing other workers to join them. There was no violence, no damage to factory property. Strikers would enter places where work was still going on. A bench, a boiler, a heap of rails, or shoulders of a comrade formed the rostrum. The speeches were short: "All Russia is on strike. . . . Should you be the last to join?"

And after such exhortations, the crowd, swollen by new recruits, rolled on.

Newspapers appeared as usual. News about the progress of the strike in all parts of Russia added to the workers' confidence and increased panic within the government. On October 12, the Municipal Council of St. Petersburg, a thoroughly conservative body, passed a resolution demanding that the government accede to the economic and political aspirations of the people.

On October 13, the workers in the electric power stations walked out. By nightfall, St. Petersburg was plunged into darkness, and agitated crowds filled the streets in the center of the city.

That evening a handful of delegates from factories and mills of the Neva district met in a classroom of the Polytechnic School and adopted a resolution calling on all striking workers to send their representatives to a Workers' Committee—one delegate for each five hundred workers. On October 14, elections were carried out here and there, and when the Workers' Committee convened it included delegates from two score plants. The group was dominated by Mensheviks, who had conducted elections earlier. An obscure labor attorney, Khrustalev, was elected chairman. He proved to be a resourceful chairman with administrative abilities. On assembling, the Committee did not know what to do, but it finally decided to ask the Municipal Council to provide food for striking workers and assign places for meetings. When a delegation went to the Municipal Council with this request, the Council merely sent it away.

The next day, October 15, 226 delegates, representing nearly a hundred plants, attended the meeting of the Committee. Except for the reports from the plants, the discussion was chaotic and no important decision was reached. The Committee found its role two days later when it realized that it was the mouthpiece of the strikers.

Trepov's order—to spare no cartridges and fire to kill—merely provoked the workers to contemptuous wrath. Several times I heard a grim joke: "We thought they were sparing us, but a three-kopek cartridge is worth more to them than human life."

The self-confidence of the striking workers was supported by the almost universal sympathy of the public. Except for a few staunch reactionaries, the entire population sided with the strikers. The government felt itself isolated, betrayed by its customary supporters, and unsure of its troops.